

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/798,565

Applicant(s)

TAKATA, KENJI

Examiner

Art Unit

Faye Polyzos

2878

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to submissions of 18 January 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 12-26.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 12 March 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                               |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance              |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

## **EXAMINER'S COMMENT AND STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

### **Comment on Submissions**

This communication is responsive to submission of 18 January 2005.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 12-26 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding independent claim 12, the prior art does not disclose or fairly suggest a radiation image information reading apparatus for two-dimensionally reading information comprising an air suction unit providing an air flow which travels in a direction from one edge of the stimuable phosphor sheet towards another edge of the stimuable phosphor sheet to prevent dust particles from attaching to the surface of the stimuable phosphor sheet.

The examiner notes that while it is known in the art for a radiation image information reading apparatus to comprise a fan to draw air so that toner particles are pulled away from the brush towards a filter bag (see for example Ogawa et al – US 3,969,785 – at Fig. 1, col. 3, lines 51-58 and col. 4, lines 2-10), the prior art does not fairly suggest the air flow within the air suction unit traveling from one end of the phosphor sheet toward another edge of the sheet.

Regarding independent claim 14, the prior art does not disclose or fairly suggest a radiation image information reading apparatus for two-dimensionally reading information comprising two brush rollers disposed in the housing where the first brush roller assembled to contact the first surface of the stimuable phosphor sheet and the

Art Unit: 2878

second brush roller assemble to contact the surface of the second stimuable phosphor sheet located opposite the first surface.

The examiner notes that while it is known in the art for a radiation image information reading apparatus to comprise a single cleaning brush, disposed in the housing of the apparatus, in contact with the surface of a sheet-like member (see for example Ogawa et al – US 3,969,785 – at Fig. 1), the prior art does not fairly suggest of two brush rollers, in contact with the phosphor sheet, assembled in an upper an lower arrangement in the housing of the apparatus.

Regarding claim 24, the prior art does not disclose or fairly suggest a radiation image information reading apparatus for two-dimensionally reading information comprising a brush roller assembly of first and second brush roller pairs having the drive means recited.

The examiner notes that while it is known in the art for a radiation image information reading apparatus to comprise a stimuable phosphor sheet feed system consisting a reading unit and a cleaning mechanism (see for example Kohda et al – US 5,446,292 – at Fig. 1), the prior art does not fairly suggest a sheet-like member cleaning device wherein the brush roller assembly comprises of a first and second brush roller pairs having the drive means recited.

The remaining claims are allowable based on their dependency.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

Art Unit: 2878

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

**Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Faye Polyzos whose telephone number is 571-272-2447. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dave Porta can be reached on 571-272-2444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

FP

  
DAVID PORTA  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800